

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00869 260320Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06  
CCO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 /081 W  
-----018668 260323Z /64/42

O 251218Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3233  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PORTION OF PARA 4 MISSING ON ORIGINAL)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SP  
SUBJECT: FORMER BARCELONA MAYOR REPORTEDLY ASSASSINATED

1. AMCONGEN BARCELONA ADVISES THAT FORMER BARCELONA MAYOR  
JOAQUIN VIOLA SAURET AND HIS WIFE WERE KILLED EARLY  
JAN. 25, APPARENTLY AS THE RESULT OF A BOMB BLAST AT THEIR  
RESIDENCE (SOME REPORTS INDICATE THEY WERE MACHINE GUNNED).  
DETAILS ARE VERY SKETCHY AND THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING.

2. VIOLA WAS MAYOR OF BARCELONA FROM SEPTEMBER 1975 UNTIL  
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HE WAS REPLACED BY CURRENT MAYOR, SOCIAS HUMBERT, IN  
DECEMBER 1976. VIOLA, A RIGHTIST, WAS A VERY UNPOPULAR  
MAYOR, AMCONGEN BARCELONA POINTS OUT, BUT HE TENDED TO  
ENGENDER EXASPERATION RATHER THAN HATRED. HE HAD BEEN A  
MEMBER OF THE FRANCO-ERA CORTES AND ALSO WAS ONE OF THE  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM, BUT HE HAD ALMOST  
DISAPPEARED FROM PUBLIC LIFE AFTER STEPPING DOWN AS MAYOR.

3. BOMBINGS HAVE BECOME ALL TOO FREQUENT IN BARCELONA THESE DAYS, AMONGEN BARCELONA REPORTS FURTHER, ALTHOUGH THEY USUALLY CAUSE PROPERTY DAMAGE AND NO DEATHS. FOUR WORKERS WERE KILLED AS THE RESULT OF THE RECENT FIRE BOMBING OF THE BARCELONA NIGHT CLUB "EL SCALA," APPARENTLY BY ANARCHISTS, BUT IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR WHO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLA ASSASSINATION. ONE EXTREMIST GROUP THAT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE RECENTLY IN THE PORT CITY IS THE SPLINTER MARXIST-LENINIST SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY--INTERNATIONAL (PCE-I), BUT ITS ACTIVITIES HAVE CONSISTED LARGELY OF TRASHINGS AND HARASSMENT OF POLICE AND MOTORISTS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

4. POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS BEEN LARGELY ABSENT FROM THE CATALAN SCENE, BUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF BOMBINGS, THE "SCALA" INCIDENT, AND NOW THE ASSASSINATION OF VIOLA ARE DISQUIETING SIGNS OF ACCELERATING ATTEMPTS BY EXTREMISTS TO UNDERMINE THE TRANSITION PROCESS. STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MAYOR, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MADRID00869  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780039-0382, D780037-0248  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** cccda1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3717584  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORMER BARCELONA MAYOR REPORTEDLY ASSASSINATED  
**TAGS:** PINS, SP, (VIOLA SAURET, JOAQUIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cccd1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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